



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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10 MARCH 1965

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1. South Vietnam

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Quat seems to be going at his job in a business-like way. He is actively trying to gain acceptance of his authority, but it is too early to tell whether he is making any real progress.

General Co, the commander in the heavily infiltrated north-central provinces (II Corps), has indicated that he is gearing his operations to the talks with the Communists which he thinks are coming, perhaps this year. Co says he is suspending pacification operations in the less populated areas and will concentrate instead on holding district and provincial capitals as bargaining centers.

There is no evidence that these sentiments have infected other key generals, and Co may simply be trying to explain away recent Viet Cong gains in his corps area.

In Paris, Ambassador Bohlen found Premier Pompidou receptive to his suggestion that the French play down public discussion of their views on Vietnam. It is far from certain that Pompidou can convince De Gaulle to go along.

2. USSR

Moscow did not manage to extract much from the consultative meeting of 19 Communist parties just concluded. The conditions attached to the meeting's hesitant call for a new world conference invite a Chinese veto and make it most unlikely that such a meeting will materialize.

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3. Egypt

Nasir is professing concern over the threat of an imminent Israeli attack and is communicating his apprehension to his Arab partners. He claims to have received reports from many sources that the Israeli military machine is ready to roll and that the US is encouraging Israel to do so.

Jordan, Syria, and Egypt all claim to be taking countermeasures. Nasir has said he has called up Egyptian reserves, and the Egyptian press is letting it drop that Egyptian troops are returning from the Yemen. He may have called up a few reserves, but we see no signs of a substantial reduction in Egyptian troop strength in the Yemen.

There is no real evidence that Israel is in fact preparing for early preemptive attacks, despite its warnings against planned Arab diversion of the Jordan headwaters. Israel's mobilization system is well oiled, however, and capable of rapid response.

4. Indonesia

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5. Congo

Tshombé handled himself well at the OAU meeting in Nairobi. There was no Congo resolution, but the conference did serve to stall the radical Africans' anti-Tshombé band wagon, for the time being at least.

Military aid from these states, however, continues to find its way to the Congo rebels, now via Tanzania. Rebel incursions into northeastern Congo are being mounted nightly from Uganda.

(See map.)

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6. Eastern Europe

An outbreak of hoof-and-mouth disease is reaching epidemic proportions in Eastern Europe. In Hungary and Czechoslovakia, which have been particularly hard hit, losses to livestock growers and slaughterers will be severe, and recriminations have been exchanged between the two countries. Cuba, too, has seen an outbreak of the disease, but no connection between the two outbreaks can be made.

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